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 TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
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 C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 061851

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: EAID, XA
 SUBJECT: EPI AND THE ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION STATUS

1. THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IS IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING ITS MARKUP OF THE FY 85 AID BILL. AT ITS FEBRUARY 29 CONSIDERATION OF THE AFRICAN SECTIONS OF THE BILL THE FULL COMMITTEE WITHOUT OPPOSITION ENDORSED SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE EPI. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS (DOC LONG) WILL HOLD HEARINGS ON SAME LEGISLATION MARCH 14.

2. AT THIS TIME WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO REPLY TO INDIVIDUAL POSTS WHICH HAVE SUBMITTED MESSAGES ADVOCATING THEIR INCLUSION IN THE EPI. AS THE PROCESS GOES ON WE HOPE TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DO SO.

3. REGRETTABLY AT LEAST TWO MESSAGES HAVE BEEN SENT BY PARTS OF AID, WITHOUT PROPER AFR OR STATE CLEARANCE, SUGGESTING THAT CERTAIN POSTS WOULD ENHANCE THEIR CHANCES OF SECURING EPI STATUS WERE THE POSTS TO COOPERATE ON PROJECTS OF INTEREST TO THESE PARTS OF AID. AFR IS SEEKING TO DISCOURAGE SUCH MESSAGES BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO BLOCK THEM ALL. IF FURTHER SUCH MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED, PLEASE ADVISE US (AND IGNORE THEM).

4. POSTS MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT HFAC BASICALLY APPROVED REQUESTED LEVELS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WITH A SMALL SHIFT FROM ESF TO DA. DEEP UTS WERE RECOMMENDED IN ZAIRE ESF (AND MAP) WHILE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FUNDING WAS INCREASED. WE ARE OPPOSING THESE CHANGES AS WELL AS COMMITTEE LANGUAGE AFFECTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ESF AND EPI. LEGISLATION ALSO CONTAINS THE SAME UNHELPFUL LANGUAGE AS LAST YEAR ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. CHAIRMAN FASCELL HOPES TO MOVE LEGISLATION TO HOUSE FLOOR SOON. WE HOPE TO DO BETTER IN SENATE ON ABOVE ISSUES BUT ARE PLEASED WITH OVERALL FUNDING SITUATION.

5. THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE INCREASED TO

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150 MILLION DOLLARS THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR A
90 MILLION DOLLAR EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLEMENTAL. THIS
WILL RUN THROUGH THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR RATHER
THAN THE USUAL FY. SHULTZ
END OF MESSAGE

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